

8 October 1976

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Tunisia/Libya: Status of Relations

Tunisia and Libya apparently now are working to improve their relations following a period of heightened tensions

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In recent months, official contacts between the two countries have resumed.

In late August, both countries agreed to submit to the International Court of Justice the contentious issue of delimitation of the continental shelf in the Gulf of Gabes (Qabis). Tunisia and Libya have been quarreling since 1968 over their territorial rights on the continental shelf and the significant petroleum deposits believed to be there.

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A delegation of Libya's trade union visited Tunis from September 9 to 11. Bilateral relations and relations between the labor movements in the two countries were discussed.

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